SCATTERED over the commune are eight "stâne" or temporary summer settlements which are all situated between 400 and 800 metres above the village. The stâna itself is a simple affair, consisting of a log hut which affords living accommodation for the shepherds and acts as a dairy and store-house, together with the folds into which the animals are driven for milking. The one illustrated had a population of three men and two boys, all Roumanians, 350 sheep and 20 cows, as well as a few pigs, the only animals left in the village being the one or two milch cows retained at each farm for family needs and the draught animals (see Plate XIII).

THE change from winter to spring takes place very rapidly during the second fortnight of April, and the ascent to the dairies is made at the end of that month or early in May. Before the animals are taken up the milk yield of the cows is tested in order to determine the apportionment of the cheese made therefrom, but the ewes' milk cheese is distributed on the basis of the number of sheep belonging to each peasant. Shortly after the ascent the village priest performs the ceremony of blessing each stâna in turn, and before the end of May the sheep are sheared by peasants who go up specially for the purpose, the wool being brought down to the village on horseback.

SINCE the summer pastures are communal property their administration is in the hands of an assembly of heads of families which assesses the rent to be paid for the season—generally 12-15 lei for a sheep and 50 lei for a cow. The money thus received forms a fund from which the shepherds are paid for their services. Each peasant makes personal arrangements with the senior shepherd as to the amount of cheese he will require for household purposes, any surplus going into a common stock which is marketed at the end of the season. Any disputes that arise are settled by arbitration in the presence of the mayor when the shepherds return to the village. This takes place during the latter part of October, the descent of each group being celebrated by minor festivities at which the shepherds are the guests of honour. The general feast held when all are down marks the official end of the season's activities.

UPON their return to the village the cows are immediately stabled, but each peasant splits up his sheep into two groups,

231 owner's farm, where the cows are kept in sheds, and the sheep, which are more hardy, are penned on the arable land, particularly on the maize stubble. Both sheep and cattle are fed on fodder crops during the winter. The surplus animals are sold at the autumn fair, and form a source of revenue.

276 336 [234] Whilst on the high pastures the sheep are clipped twice, and the wool is divided amongst the peasants in proportion to the number of animals sent up. The cheese is usually shared by the owners of the animals in the same way, the mayor and his committee being responsible for the correct apportionment. In the Valley of the Argeş co-operative dealers from Bucharest frequently buy the cheese "in bulk" direct from the commune, and the monetary value is shared between the owners of the animals.

291 Oxen are used almost exclusively for draught purposes, the numbers kept in this district being somewhat in excess of the farmers' requirements, owing to their use for lumbering (see below).

241 369 [438] Peasant farming in the Valley of the Argeş is no longer entirely on a subsistence basis. Two factors have tended to modify it. Firstly, the position of the valley, opening as it does directly on the Wallachian Plain, with its rich grain lands and containing the capital Bucharest, has allowed commercial intercourse to develop. The Argeş peasant no longer cultivates wheat; he does not mind if his maize crop is good enough for fodder only, for he can buy both wheat and maize from the plain. Further, he finds a ready market and so a money income in Bucharest for his surplus fruit, 313 particularly apples, and cheese. Secondly, the forests form a valuable asset to the peasant. During the winter felling takes place in the upper basin of the Argeş; in spring and summer the timber is transported, and work in the State mill in Curtea goes on all the year round. Practically every household has somebody working in the timber trade, and the money so earned (as much as 100 lei per day for a man supplying his own yoke of oxen) reduces the dependence of the family on the farm.

874 242 At Curtea de Arges is the School of Agriculture, Regina Elizabeta. Although only a small percentage of its pupils is local, it is gradually influencing the farming of the neighbourhood. Experiments in cultivation, plant breeding and

devolving on the shepherds is the shearing, which is done twice in the summer, but they are spared the "dipping" regulations, which British shepherds find so irksome. For the rest there is much to be done to keep the flocks healthy and safe from wolves, to look after the dogs, to carry water and cut wood. In rare moments of leisure the shepherd will be found blowing his simple pipe, or singing songs, or carving a stick with his versatile knife, cutting out those ancient geometric patterns which are the common heritage of peasant Europe.

E. E. E.

A Beetle

A reaping glove

A. TEXTILES AND TEXTILE FIBRES

248 In the years preceding the war, Rumania had been making efforts, with some success, to reduce the degree of her previous dependence on imports of textile fibres. The cotton crop of fair average quality, though still far short of the expanded [236] mill capacity, was gradually increasing, while indigenous wool supplies—though chiefly of coarse quality—were in the main enough for peasant clothing. Home-grown crops of hemp and flax were sufficient for internal needs, while jute, coir and hard hemps were imported to complete the requirements of industrial fibres.

248 439 The cessation of imports and loss of territory to her neighbours have entirely changed the supply picture, and combined with demands by Germany for imports have greatly reduced the textile "standard of living."

1. Cotton

With the development of her processing industry, Rumania had increased raw cotton imports and was successfully encouraging domestic cotton production. By 1938, imports at some 21,000 tons were about five times larger than those of 1932, and the domestic crop yield, less than 20 tons in 1932, had risen to about 600 tons. The principal sources of raw cotton were Egypt, the U.S.A., and Great Britain.

With the outbreak of war, Rumanian imports generally were curtailed, the combined total of raw cotton and cotton materials being 14,700 tons in 1940, and 13,800 tons in 1941. Thereafter, Rumania was dependent on such supplies as she could obtain by barter, lower grade cotton from Turkey and Italy and cotton and staple fibre union cloth from Italy.

248 Since 1938 the Rumanian cotton crop has continued to increase, though it is still very short of normal requirements; while the cession of some 8,000 ha. (20,000 acres) of cotton land to Bulgaria in 1940, and unfavourable weather conditions, tended to restrict the cotton-growing programme.

Prior to the territorial changes of 1940, cotton was grown close to the Danube at Craiova, and especially in the Southern Dobruja. With the cession of most of this land to Bulgaria, cotton is now mostly grown on the north bank of the Danube, at Banloc near Timişoara in the Banat and in the districts of Teleorman, Vlasca and Ialomiţa. The crop in 1939 was 2,200 tons from less than 10,000 ha. (24,000 acres) and in 1942 was estimated at 5,000 tons from about 20,000 ha. (50,000 acres). A further increase in area has been planned, but the harvest, particularly in the north, is largely dependent upon climatic conditions. The type of cotton now produced is considered superior to Indian, and similar in quality to American.

288 The chief mill centres are at Arad, Bucarest, Cluj, Iaşi, Lugoj and Timişoara; of these, Cluj is the only one to have been affected by the transfer of territory. Cotton supplies are dis- [655] tributed under the direction of the Department of Industry and Trade by "Romacotin," which also has a monopoly of purchase from producers at prices fixed by the General Price Commissariat. Cotton may be sold only to these Government agencies to whom it has to be delivered by

288 31st December. There appears to be a good deal of passive resistance and hoarding.

Cotton spindles had increased from 35,600 in 1927 to 250,000 in 1938, and altogether there were 18 mills of some importance. Power looms in 1938 are believed to have amounted to about 16,000. The apparent disproportion of spindle compared with loom capacity was due to Rumania being a fairly important buyer of foreign yarns, imports being 23,000 tons in 1936, 27,000 in 1937, 14,000 in 1938 and 15,000 in 1939. About 70 per cent. of these yarns were of coarse cotton, called "peasants' yarns," for use in the handicraft industry only, and imported mainly from Czechoslovakia, Germany, Italy and Great Britain.

2. Wool

236 Rumania, which had the largest wool-growing industry in S.E. Europe, was also the most important consumer. Production of raw wool in 1938 was about 20,090 tons (greasy) and imports were about 1,000 tons, and of wool yarn about 2,500 tons. On account of its coarse quality, not much more than one-third of the domestic wool clip is ordinarily used in the mechanised industry, the bulk being consumed in village handicraft. Since the war and subsequent loss of territory, [233] the sheep population of Rumania is believed to have declined by some 25 to 30 per cent., and all imports have ceased, so that the industry is now entirely dependent upon the reduced domestic clip.

288 Rumania was never a large importer of woollen cloth, and the weaving industry was always more highly developed than the spinning. The output of cloth in 1936 and 1937 being 6,000 tons and 6,600 tons respectively. In 1938, there were 127,000 mechanised spindles and 4,300 looms, the chief mill centres, in order of importance, being at Buhusi (district of Neamţi), Braşov, Timişoara, Bacău, Bucarest and Sibiu.

655 Both the raw material and the woollen-textile
236 industry are nominally under strict Government
288 control, as by a decree in April 1942, the numbers of sheep and lambs and the quantity of shorn wool must be declared each year, and the wool itself must be surrendered to collecting centres at specified dates. As the due date for the 1942 collection had to be extended month by month up till January 10th, 1943, and all penalties abrogated, the success of the scheme appears to have been doubtful. No wool can be bought or sold except by permit of the Ministry of National Economy, and distribution to the mills is entrusted to an organisation known as "OFIL" (*Oficiul Lânei*), a company with a capital of 10 million lei, and including all firms concerned in the preparation of wool.

3. Hemp

248 In 1937 the area under hemp, which is grown chiefly in the Banat, was 50,000 ha. (123,000 acres) and the outturn 27,000 tons, most of which was consumed internally. Exact details of wartime plantings are not known, but are reported as 45,000 ha. (112,000 acres) and 32,500 ha. (80,300 acres) in 1941 and 1942, and the yield at about 21,000 and 20,000 tons respectively. For 1943, farmers have been urged to plant more hemp—the "national textile"—in order to cover clothing.